

Message Text

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ORIGIN TRSE-00

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DRAFTED BY TREAS: HMCFADDEN

APPROVED BY NEA:SIDNEY SOBER

TREAS: GPARSKY

TREAS: LBOWDEN

STATE: RPOATS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 114860

FROM PARSKY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:USSAEC, SA, US

SUBJECT:INTERIM STAFFING OF RIYADH OFFICE

REF: JIDDA 3338

1. OUR PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE INTERIM STAFFING WAS DIRECTED PRECISELY AT LAYING THE ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK AND AT CREATING AN ADEQUATE SUPPORT CAPABILITY FOR RIYADH OFFICE PROGRAM OPERATIONS. WE CONTINUE TO THINK TEAMS FROM WASHINGTON CONTAINING MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL PEOPLE WORKING WITH THE EMBASSY ARE THE LOGICAL MECHANISM.

2. IN LIGHT OF YOUR INSISTENCE THAT OUR PROPOSAL BE MODIFIED, WE HAVE REDESIGNED THE INTERIM STAFFING PLAN TO FOCUS THE APPROPRIATE STAFF RESOURCES FROM WASHINGTON FOR A CONCENTRATED PERIOD DURING JUNE. AS FIRST STAGE WE PLAN TO SEND OUT A TEAM OF THREE FROM TREASURY TO SPEND FROM MAY 30 TO JUNE 17 IN RIYADH. THIS TEAM WILL BE COMPOSED UNCLASSIFIED

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OF HUGH MCFADDEN, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SAUDI ARABIAN AFFAIRS, AS TEAM LEADER; HENRY HAPPEL, TREASURY LEGAL COUNSEL; AND MELVIN VISNICK OF TREASURY'S BUREAU OF GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL OPERATIONS.

3. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE INITIAL TEAM WILL BE TO WORK WITH THE EMBASSY'S ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR, MACARTHUR AND ZEIGLER TO DEFINE AND SOLVE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE THE CRITICAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS WE FACE. EXAMPLES OF SUCH PROBLEMS ARE: TRANSIENT QUARTERS, PERMANENT HOUSING, DEPOSIT PROCEDURES, LEASING PROCEDURES FOR EQUIPMENT, PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, AND LOCAL HIRING PROCEDURES.

4. TEAM OF BOWDEN, MOSER AND KOSOBAYASHI ARE TO ARRIVE IN JIDDA JUNE 14 AND IN RIYADH ON JUNE 15 AS THE SECOND STAGE, OVERLAPPING THE INITIAL TEAM BY ONE OR TWO DAYS. BY THIS TIME THE INITIAL TEAM AND EMBASSY STAFF SHOULD HAVE DEFINED OTHER CRITICAL ISSUES REQUIRING HIGH-LEVEL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY FROM WASHINGTON. THE TEAM WILL HAVE ALERTED BOWDEN IN WASHINGTON AS TO WHAT ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY HE WILL NEED TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS. BOWDEN WILL STAY AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO SEE THAT ALL DECISIONS NECESSARY FOR OPERATIONS START-UP HAVE BEEN MADE. AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED, STEPHEN HAYES WILL ARRIVE IN RIYADH ON JUNE 20 FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD.

5. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THIS TEAM APPROACH WILL ENABLE US TO MOVE THIS OPERATION FORWARD WITHOUT EXCESSIVELY STRAINING EMBASSY OR SAUDI HOSPITALITY. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT THE RECENT FIVE-MAN TREASURY TEAM TO SAUDI ARABIA, WITH EXCELLENT COOPERATION FROM THE EMBASSY, WAS ABLE TO FOCUS SAUDI DECISION MAKERS ON KEY QUESTIONS AND TO MAKE GREAT PROGRESS IN DEFINING ESSENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS NEEDING WASHINGTON RESOLUTION. IN MY CONSIDERED JUDGMENT, TEAM APPROACH OUTLINED ABOVE ACCOMPLISHES THE SAME PURPOSE AND WILL BRING US CLOSER TO THE GOAL OF MOVING FORWARD ON REAL PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

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